



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces Public Meetings to Address Potential Management Measures to Assist in Revitalizing the U.S. Atlantic Swordfish Fishery

NMFS will hold five public meetings in September 2006 in order to obtain recommendations from participants in the U.S. North Atlantic swordfish fishery and other members of the public regarding potential management measures for the fishery so as to fully harvest the available quota allocated to the United States by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). In the last several years, the fishery has not fully harvested the available quota. NMFS anticipates that the pending September 2006 stock assessment may identify the North Atlantic swordfish stock as fully rebuilt. In addition, at its November 2006 meeting, ICCAT will likely review swordfish management measures and quota allocations. Fishermen and others have asked NMFS to assist in revitalizing the U.S. North Atlantic swordfish fishery. Therefore, NMFS is considering potential management measures that would address factors limiting the ability to catch the allocated quota and to aid in revitalizing the fishery. At the September 2006 meetings, NMFS wishes to obtain recommendations to this effect.

Public meeting dates, times and locations:

September 14, 2006, from 6-8 p.m. at the Vietnamese Community Center of Houma, 1268 Highway 182 West, Houma, LA 70364.

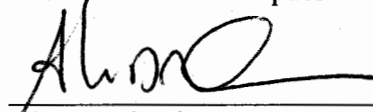
September 18, 2006, from 7-9 p.m. at the Manahawkin Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

September 19, 2006, from 7-9 p.m. at the Peabody Holiday Inn, 1 Newberry Street, Peabody, MA 01960.

September 20, 2006, from 7-9 p.m. at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, 374 Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954.

September 21, 2006, from 6-8 p.m. at the NMFS Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408.

This fax notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery interests to keep you informed about HMS fisheries. Official notice of federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information about the public meetings, contact Sari Kiraly at (301) 713-2347.


Alan D. Risenhoover, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

8/30/06
Date

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